

The longer history of minority cultures in Europe.

A Case Study of Calabrian-Greeks and the dynamics of the Norman period.

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LINGUE "MINORI", OPPORTUNITÀ MAGGIORI

I RISULTATI DEL PROGETTO **COLING** NELL'AREA GRECANICA

22 september 2023, Bova





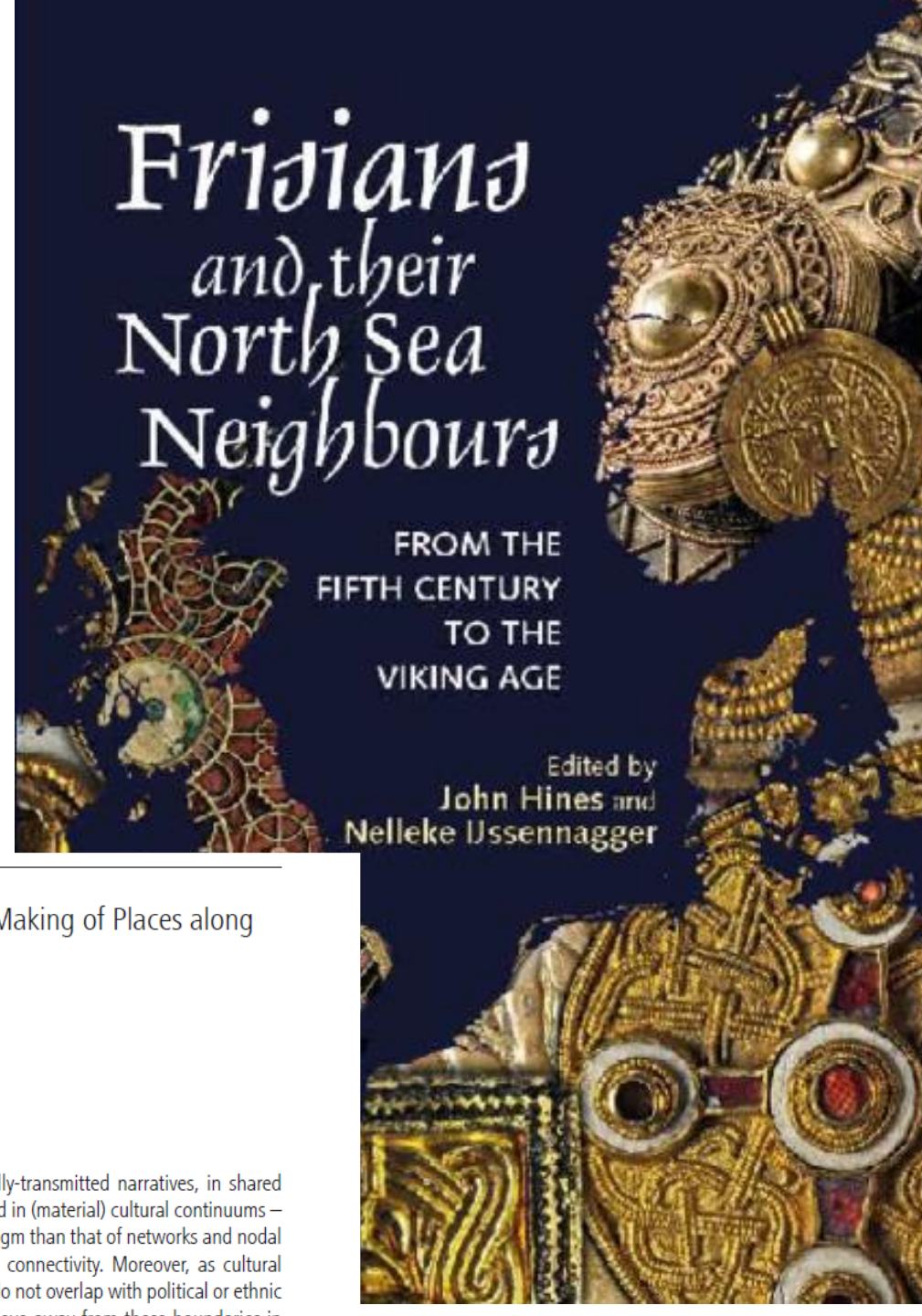
Intercoastal Cultural Zones in Early Medieval Europe. Long-term Making of Places along North Sea and Celtic Sea Coasts

Nelleke IJssennagger – van der Pluijm

Introduction

Historically, people living beside various parts of the North Sea and Celtic Sea coasts were in close contact with each other, particularly in the early medieval and long Viking period (ca. 400–1100). This book explores the ways in which these contacts were shaped by

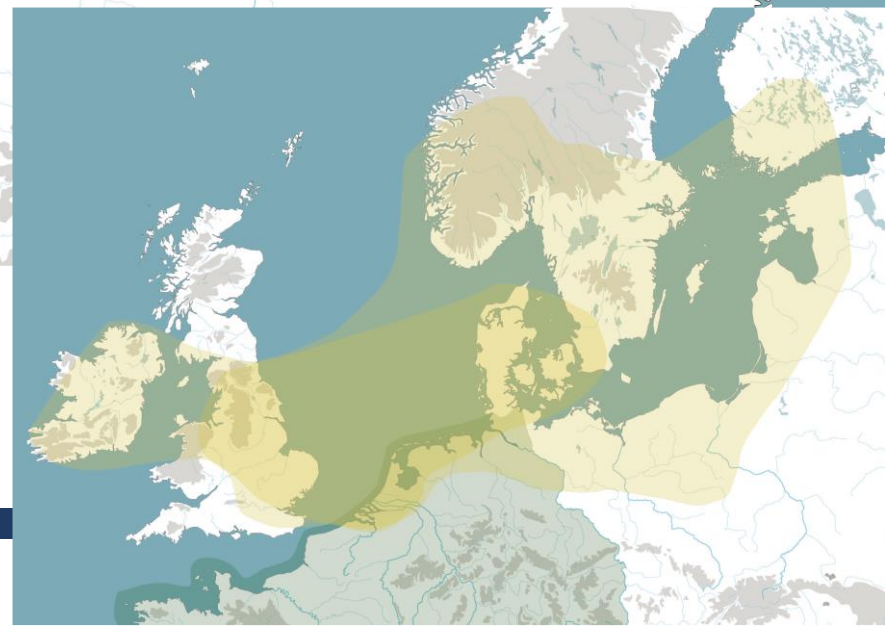
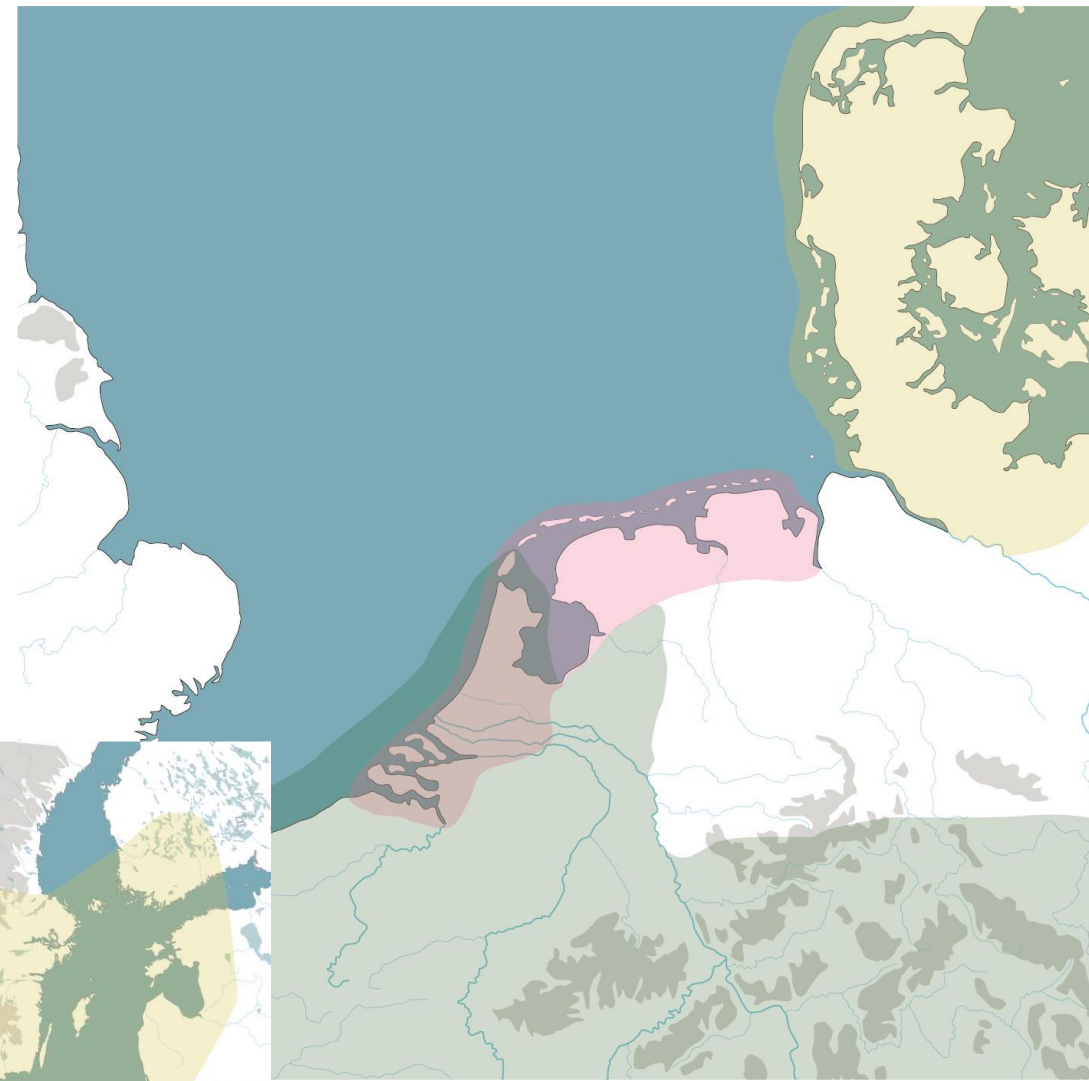
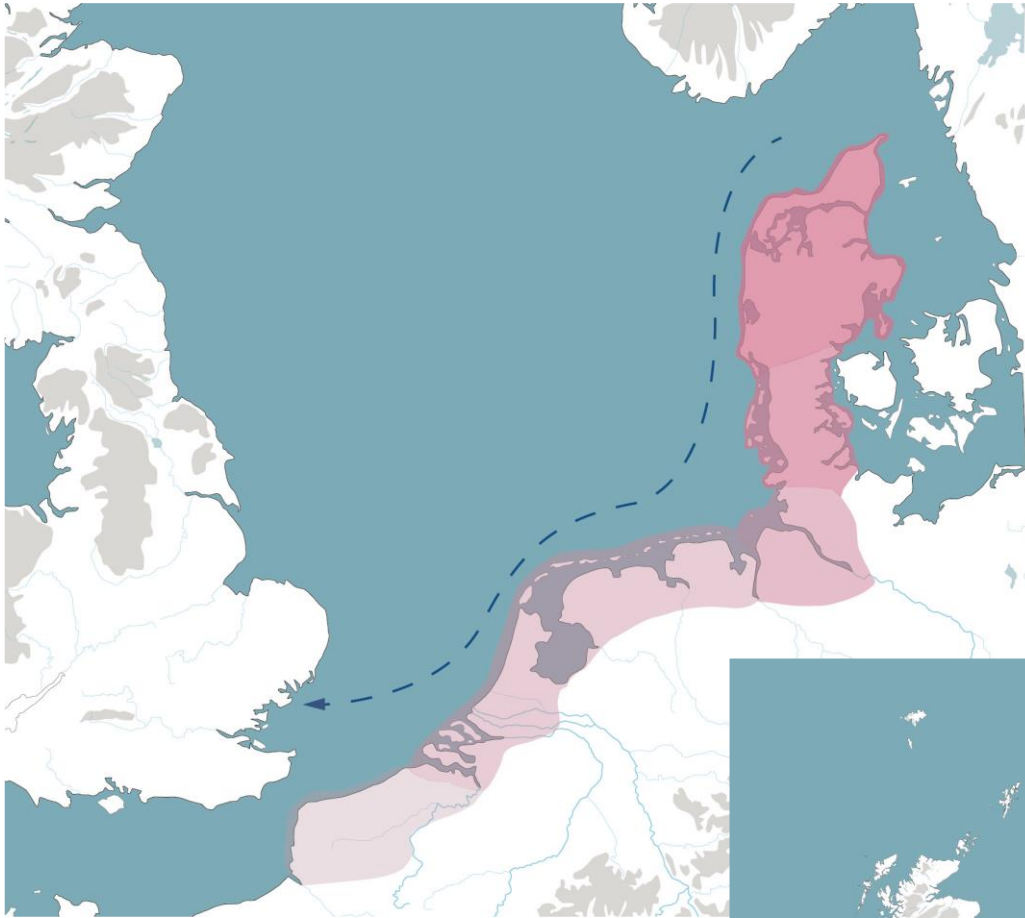
personal relations, in orally-transmitted narratives, in shared landscape-experiences and in (material) cultural continuums – we need a different paradigm than that of networks and nodal points to understand this connectivity. Moreover, as cultural zones may not and often do not overlap with political or ethnic boundaries, we need a map away from these boundaries in



Frisians and their North Sea Neighbours

FROM THE
FIFTH CENTURY
TO THE
VIKING AGE

Edited by
John Hines and
Nelleke IJssennagger



I GRECI ATTRAVERSO IL MEDITERRANEO
Greeks throughout the Mediterranean



greci, coloniali, fondazioni
 La rete delle città greche si estendeva dal centro del Mediterraneo al nord-ovest, verso la penisola iberica, e al sud-ovest, verso l'Atlantico. Le città greche erano spesso fondate in luoghi strategici, come porti naturali o punti di controllo delle rotte commerciali. Le città greche erano spesso fondate in luoghi strategici, come porti naturali o punti di controllo delle rotte commerciali.

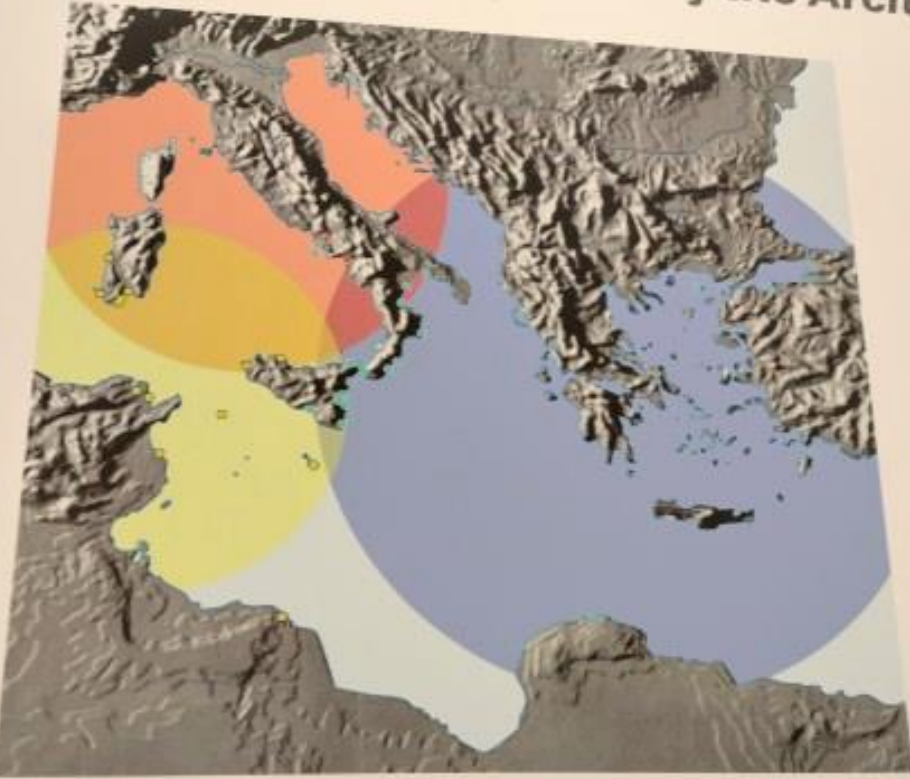
Shipping, trade and new settlements
 In the 8th century BC, after the collapse of the Mycenaean civilization and the advent of the Iron Age, the Greeks began to expand their influence throughout the Mediterranean. They established colonies in strategic locations, such as ports and points of control of trade routes. The Greek colonies were often founded in strategic locations, such as ports and points of control of trade routes.

Le città greche dell'Italia meridionale
 Nel VII e VI secolo a.C., le città greche si estendevano dal centro del Mediterraneo al nord-ovest, verso la penisola iberica, e al sud-ovest, verso l'Atlantico. Le città greche erano spesso fondate in luoghi strategici, come porti naturali o punti di controllo delle rotte commerciali. Le città greche erano spesso fondate in luoghi strategici, come porti naturali o punti di controllo delle rotte commerciali.

The Greek cities of Southern Italy
 In the 7th and 6th centuries BC, the Greek colonies in Southern Italy were founded in strategic locations, such as ports and points of control of trade routes. The Greek colonies were often founded in strategic locations, such as ports and points of control of trade routes.

MA&RC

INIZI DELL'ETÀ ARCAICA (720-600 a.C.)
 genous peoples at the start of the Archaic



La Calabria del I millennio a.C., compresa tra le sfere d'influenza greca (blu), fenicia (giallo) ed etrusca (rosso).
 Cerchi blu: colonie greche. Cerchi gialli: colonie fenicie. Cerchi rossi: colonie etrusche (Mab. A. Varzetti).
 First Millennium BC Calabria in the middle of the Greek (blue), the Phoenician (yellow) and the Etruscan (red) sphere of influence.
 Blue circles: Greek colonies. Yellow circles: Phoenician colonies. Red circles: Etruscan colonies. (Mab. A. Varzetti)

Research question

How have (Early-) Medieval dynamics fundamentally contributed to the shaping of today's minorities in Europe?

Why this approach?

- moves the focus away from the relatively modern national context that dominates our view on minorities.
- redirects it to the cultures in question and their long history.
- leaves room to question the role of traditional historic sources on the one hand, and of the myth of ancient, unchanged cultures on the other.
- examines the *layeredness* of the cultural tradition and periods of fundamental change through time, as well as the negotiation of socio-cultural identities, which helps us to theorize changes leading to minoritization.



Premise

considerable migration and expansion, as well as consolidation and centralization of power, religion and “official” history in the form of written sources for which the Early-Medieval to Medieval period is known, forms a significant element of impact on the shaping of cultures and their position, ultimately contributing to the minority situation as known today.

Hypothesis

Shared factors that impact the long-term creation of minorities starting in the (early-)Medieval period are:

1. the formation and consolidation of territorial boundaries and (external) powers through which cultures become a minority in numbers or in dominance, naturally guided by geographical circumstance
2. the consolidation of the written word as dominant form of knowledge transfer within the territory and – equally important – as primary source for the study of history today (whilst it was the minority of communication at the time).

The case-study

Do we indeed see the process of formation and consolidation of territorial powers, geographical circumstance and the role of the written word in the Norman period as the impacting dynamics?



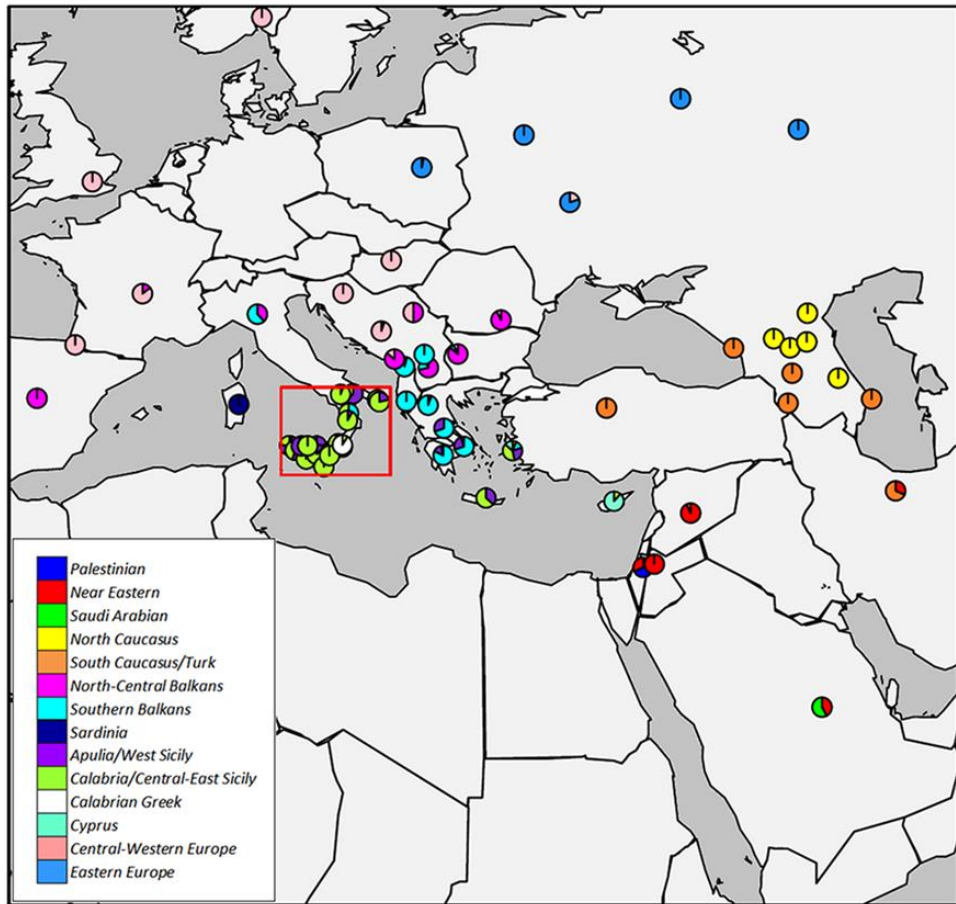


Figure 3 Sarno et al. 2017.

Developments and direct impacts

- Norman settlement private
- No “Normans” as such
- Greek majority Calabria
- Once rulers, vassals to the Catholic Pope and Church
- Common law respects local customs
- Role of peasantry underestimated, as is role of oral traditions



Underlying long-term dynamics



- Geography
- Changing the orientation
- Written word and cultural transfer
- Negotiation socio-cultural identities

Conclusions

Complete shift in orientation
is the most important long-term dynamic!

Efkaristo for your attention, the collaboration and hospitality!

